

Service Date: October 14, 1999

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF GREAT FALLS GAS)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMPANY, Application to Implement Gas)	
Cost Tracking Procedure (includes service in)	DOCKET NO. D98.9.213
West Yellowstone division))	ORDER NO. 6102d

ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION

1. On August 9, 1999, Great Falls Gas Company (GFG, now Energy West Montana) filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) a request for reconsideration of Order No. 6102c, the final order issued in the above-entitled matter. GFG requests reconsideration on two points, one pertaining to the implementation date of the rates approved on a final basis and one pertaining to rates for service in West Yellowstone, Montana.

2. In Order No. 6102c the PSC approved a \$559,001 revenue increase for GFG. This amount is \$159,411 less than the interim revenue increase approved by the PSC in Order No. 6102a on November 17, 1998. In Order No. 6102c the PSC established the effective date for resulting rate changes (i.e., rate reduction compared to interim rates and rebate for overcollections during the interim period) for meters read on and after August 1, 1999. On reconsideration GFG suggests that implementation be deferred until the interim order is issued in GFG's upcoming gas cost tracker, to offset or partially offset the anticipated increase at that time. The PSC approves GFG's suggestion. Implementation of rate changes, including rebates as required, resulting from Order No. 6102c shall be deferred until the PSC issues an interim order in GFG's upcoming gas cost tracker.

3. In Order No. 6102c the PSC denied GFG's request for approval of company-wide inclusion of certain West Yellowstone operational expenses (i.e., liquifaction and transportation). On reconsideration GFG does not dispute the denial,

but suggests that, with the denial the PSC failed to consider a corresponding \$37,920 revenue increase for commodity charges related to West Yellowstone operations. The PSC determines that GFG did not present that argument in its underlying application or in subsequent proceedings in this matter. The PSC therefore denies GFG's request for reconsideration on this point. GFG can present this issue in GFG's upcoming gas cost tracker and the PSC will consider it again in that proceeding, but GFG has the burden of demonstrating that the amount in issue is recoverable through that proceeding.

Done and dated this 13th day of October, 1999, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chair

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)